



June 10, 2026

Waterloo Region District School Board

Minutes

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: M. Radlein (Chair of the Board), B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, *M. Waseem, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

*Virtual Attendance

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Chief Executive Officer), M. Armellini, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, N. Landry, B. Lemon, and J. Maliha.

Other staff in attendance: R. Connolly, H. Han, M. Mayer, S. Reidel and M. Sarwar.

Call to Order

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

1. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the agenda of the June 10 2026, Special Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

There were no delegations scheduled.

Reports

2026-2027 Budget

2. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board suspend Bylaw 25.4.2., allowing trustees to speak more than twice to the topic at hand.

-Carried-

The 2026–2027 Budget Recommendations proposed operating budget projects total revenues of \$957,101,695 and total expenses of \$969,673,031, leaving an initial deficit of \$12,571,336. To meet Ministry of Education compliance regulations, the board will utilize a total of \$5,922,583 in in-year transfers from its accumulated surplus, resulting in a net deficit for compliance of \$6,648,753. This financial plan addresses several sector-wide challenges, including declining provincial student enrolment, ongoing inflationary pressures on commodities, and rising short-term supply staff costs. Despite these fiscal pressures, the budget ensures compliance with provincial legislation while maintaining targeted investments aligned with the board's strategic plan and the Board Improvement and Equity Plan. Key educational priorities for the upcoming school year will continue to focus on math achievement, early reading literacy, classroom safety, and student well-being.

Trustees thoroughly discussed enrolment risk and the related impact on funding. Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order asking that Trustee S. Piatkowski not speculate regarding underfunding. The Chair asked Trustee S. Piatkowski to provide relevance to the budget report.

Discussions continued regarding the Special Education funding model, staffing and Responsive Education Programs, including those not yet signaled to be continuing next year. Trustees asked questions of clarification on Classroom Supplies for Elementary Teachers funding and Special Education students. Trustees also asked questions regarding underfunded statutory benefit increases, accessibility upgrades and underfunded inflation.

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) approve the budget as presented in this report—with revenues of \$957,101,695 and expenses of \$969,673,031 with the difference of \$12,571,336 attributed as follows:

Excess of expenses over revenues	(\$12,571,336)
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LESS:

As required by Ministry of Education (Ministry) budget compliance regulations, this budget includes the following appropriations from accumulated surplus:

Increase/ (Decrease) in Unavailable for Compliance - Accumulated Surplus

PSAB Adjustment for Interest Accrual	\$95,050
Sinking Fund Interest Earned	(\$24,045)
Unsupported Capital Projects Adjustment	(\$472,624)
Revenues Recognized for Land	\$3,069,542
Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO)	(\$8,590,488)
In-Year Adjustment to Revenues	<u>(\$5,922,583)</u>
TOTAL – Surplus/(Deficit) for Compliance	<u>(\$6,648,753)</u>

-Carried-

Trustees discussed a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education informing them of our approved budget and sharing concerns regarding the structural budget pressures.

4. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education informing them of our approved budget, using some of our surplus funds, and sharing concerns regarding the structural budget pressures; and

That the letter include specific concerns about the underfunding of Special Education, the budget pressures outlined on folios 16-18 (including commodities & services, statutory benefit increases and short-term supply costs), the lack of announcement of REPs which in the past have included mental health supports, graduation coaches for Black students, Human Rights and Equity Advisors, and

bursaries for students, but are not included in this year's funding announcement; and

That the letter quantify the funds we are using from other budget lines to pay for these unfunded and underfunded items; and

That the letter further quantify the student support positions (for example, EAs, CYWs, Librarian assistants, etc) that could be funded if the above items were fully funded; and

That copies of the letter be sent to the Premier, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Chairs and CEOs at publicly-funded Ontario school boards, WRDSB labour partners and WRDSB statutory committees.

-Carried-

Abstained: M. Ramsay

Adjournment

5. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the Special Board Meeting of June 10, 2026, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.